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Homestead Golf Course reopens in Greenfield Twp. at former dairy farm started by Scottish immigrants

By Thomas M. Fontana

Homestead Golf Course in Greenfield Twp. couldn't be more appropriately named.

The 18-hole course that sits on 88.5 acres is owned by Donald Powell, whose great greatgrandparents John and Christina Russell were immigrants from Scotland with their five children in 1840, and built their home on the property in 1843. The house (or homestead) still stands on Rt. 106, and serves as the golf course club house as well as the residence of Don and his mother, Helen Russell Powell, 84, who was born in the house.

The game of golf originated in Scotland, but Powell's ancestors were not golfers. They were dairy farmers, and the homestead was a large, prosperous farm of several hundred acres, which was passed to his great grandparents James and Margaret Russell, and down through subsequent generations of the family.

"My grandfather, William Russell, inherited the farm from his father," Don explains, "and my mother inherited it from him."

But as years went by, dairy farms in the area waned and grew smaller, as did the Russell homestead farm. Then, in 1958, grandpa Russell died, and Don's parents, Walter and Helen gained ownership.

"They really weren't interested in keeping the farm going," Don said. "In 1955, they had helped my father's cousin, George Hughes, build the Lakeland Golf Course, which he then sold to my parents. They never golfed, but they learned how to run a golf course, so they decided to open a course at the homestead."

The Homestead Golf Course was designed and built by Don's parents and his brother Russell, and opened in 1962. Don himself was not a golfer, but he became the grounds keeper, making sure the greens were cut and the shrubs were trimmed. (Don's identical twin brother, S. Robert Powell, lives in Carbondale and is presi-

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